

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 16. This bill is wrong on so many levels.

More gun control has been the legislator's answer for the last thirty years with no objectively measurable effect on crime. Now the Governor's answer to address juvenile crime in this state is to go after legally possessed guns and law-abiding gun owners? How does that make sense?

The federal government's own analysis of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban proved that there is no statistically significant causal link between lawfully owned guns and crime rates. A better approach is effective enforcement of existing Connecticut firearms law and focus on the illegal use of firearms during the execution of crimes.

Connecticut firearm laws are already so convoluted. Legislation written by lawyers for lawyers, that needs a judge to interpret them. All designed to trap the legal gun owners of this state that need to attempt to read and understand hundreds of pages of firearm laws.

The proposed restrictions are also in direct conflict with existing Supreme Court precedent that the Second Amendment protects all arms in common use (reference Heller). According to a recent report by the Nation Shooting Sports Foundation, since 1990 there are an estimated 20 million AR-15 pattern firearms lawfully possessed. Such a number is sure to be considered in common use by any logical measure.

The reasonable conclusion is that Senate Bill 16 has only one purpose, to restrict the constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms by the citizens of this state. The only individuals that will be affected are law-abiding gun owners who are statistically speaking the least likely to commit crime.

Please oppose Senate Bill 16!

In addition, I also oppose House Bill 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS.

I support Senate Bill 388 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.

I support House Bill 5415 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

I support House Bill 5412 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

Sincerely,
Kevin S. Van Keuren
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